



National Technical University of Athens
Road Safety Observatory

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FIFTH UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL ROAD
SAFETY WEEK

6-12 May 2019



Save Lives

#SpeakUp

Big data for road safety – For Safety –

Jim Teressonok

Transportation Engineer, Research Assistant

Workshop:

**Digitalisation
and Road Safety
Research**

Friday
17
May
2019
at 14:00

Together with:

Katerina Folla, Apostolos Ziakopoulos, Dimitris Nikolaou and George Yannis

Background

- Contemporary road safety analyses still rely too much on **traditional data collection methodologies**, so new ways of extracting data are necessary in the new technological landscape
- **Big Data** might be the solution that will assist researchers, practitioners and decision makers:
 - **Real-time** aspect of data
 - Easy acquisition from **various sources**
 - Smartphones, OBD, cellular networks etc.
 - **Easy transfer and storage** of data to other projects and/or for later use
 - **Time and cost efficient**



Research Questions

- Exploration of the **availability of big data** that could provide additional insight on road safety analysis.
- Examination of existing data sources with high-resolution data useful for road safety analyses at both **macroscopic and microscopic level**.
- Exploration of available data useful for a **multi-layer approach** of road safety analysis:
 - Risk exposure data
 - Road safety performance indicators
 - Accident data



Methodological Challenges

- **Investigation** of all available sources of data
 - Navigation companies were examined
 - More specialized solutions from other companies
- **Reorganisation and categorisation** of the provided data from the companies
 - Different meanings and formats in each company
- **Developing a common analysis structure**
 - Complex data structures
 - Universal description
 - Easy to read and analyse



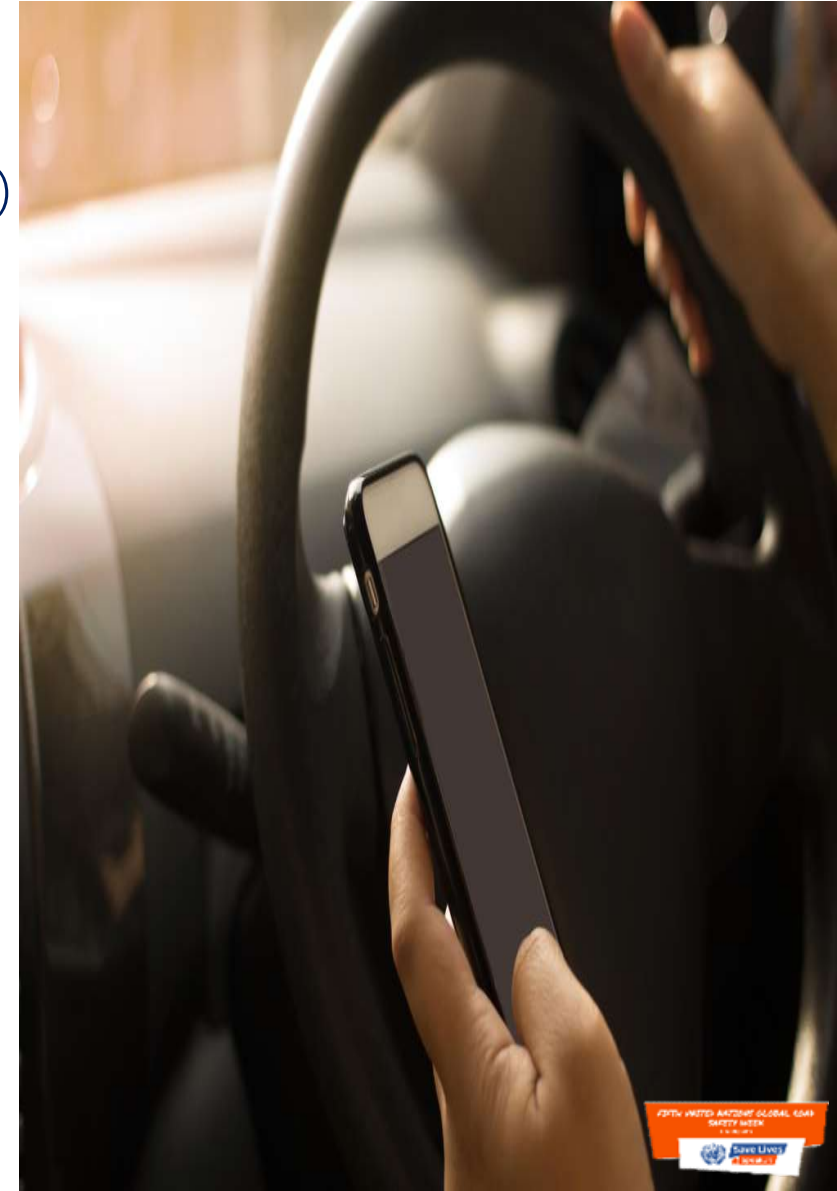
Risk Exposure Data

- **Road Network** (Road Type, Area Type)
 - High Availability: Google, HERE, TomTom
- **Roadway Geometry** (Horizontal & Vertical Curvature)
 - High Availability: Google, HERE, TomTom
- **Vehicles** (Vehicle Type, Engine Size, Fuel Type)
 - Low Availability: Waze, Uber, IdealSpot
- **Driver Characteristics** (Age, Gender, Nationality)
 - Low Availability: Streetlight (mainly demographics)
- **Distance Parameters** (Person- & Vehicle-kms of Travel)
 - Low Availability: INRIX, Streetlight
- **Traffic Parameters** (Traffic Flow, Density, Volume)
 - High Availability: INRIX, Streetlight, IdealSpot



Road Safety Performance Indicators

- **Speed** (Mean Speed, Temporal Variation, Speed Limit)
 - High Availability: HERE, TomTom, INRIX
- **Road User** (Seatbelt & Helmet Wearing Rate)
 - No Availability: Alternative Sources
- **Traffic Law Enforcement** (Controls, Speed Cameras)
 - Low Availability: Waze, HERE, TomTom, Yandex
- **Roads** (Proportion of travel by type of road)
 - Low Availability: INRIX, Streetlight
- **Post-Crash Care** (Mean EMS Response Time)
 - No Availability: Alternative Sources



Accident Data

The crash-related data comes in a **uniform format**:

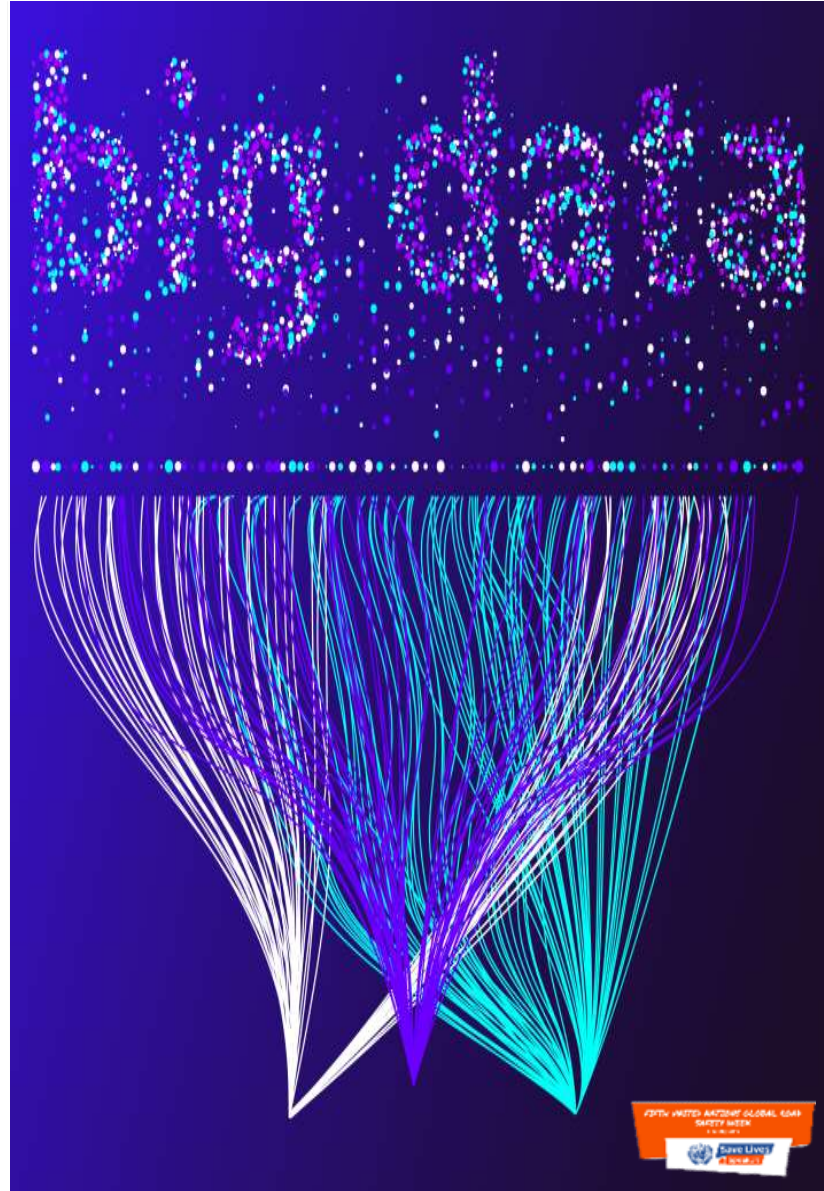
- Number of Incidents (Including Crashes)
- Type of Delay
- Start & End Location of Crashes
- Road Name
- Type of Area/Road
- Length (In Time) of the Delay
- Weather Conditions
- Significance

Primary Sources: Waze, HERE, TomTom, Yandex, INRIX
Data Extraction Methods: Crowdsourcing, Partnerships, Algorithmically generated flow-based incidents



Alternative Data Sources

- **Logistics and Fleet Operators**
 - UPS, DHL, XPO Logistics, etc.
- **Automotive Manufacturers**
 - Tesla, VW, Toyota, BMW, Ford, etc.
- **Telecommunication Agencies**
 - Verizon, AT&T, Vodafone Group, etc.
- **Carsharing Companies**
 - Uber, Lyft, Cabify, Careem, Easy Taxi, etc.
- **Social Media Platforms**
 - Facebook, Twitter, VK, Instagram, etc.



Scientific and Social Impact

- Alternative data that could lead to **new road safety analyses** in order to:
 - more efficiently describe the road safety phenomenon
 - be used for the validation of traditional research results
- New increased **net present value of road safety data**, available for early problem detection and prompt and customised decision support
- **Continuous driver support** with aim to improve driver behavior and develop better road safety culture at all road users, stakeholders and the Authorities



Future Challenges

- Adapting to **new environments** and ways of extracting data in the future
- Exploring **alternative sources of data** concerning variables with limited information
- **Enrichment and improvement of existing data** from users themselves that will contribute to the system in order to improve road safety
- Inspection of **new statistical methods** in order to increase the accuracy of road safety analysis results by using Big Data
- Development and continuous update of policies and processes in order to ensure **personal data privacy and security**.





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